I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. The proposed third African Population Conference follows the two regional conferences on population that were held in 1971 and 1982 in Accra and Arusha, respectively.

2. The first African Population Conference was organized at a time when African Governments still regarded population factors as exogenous rather than endogenous to the development process. The objectives of the Conference were to (a) bring about awareness of problems and opportunities of the African demographic situation; and (b) prepare governments and people for the task of tackling development problems in the region.

3. That conference was attended by about 400 experts (including representatives from 32 ECA member States), who deliberated on several main themes about African population, namely:

(a) Population situation, trends and prospects;

(b) Demographic data collection/analysis, training and research;

(c) Application of demography for socio-economic development by sector of population;

(d) Country case studies on population-development interrelationships;

(e) Population policy and programmes; and

(f) Special sessions on methods of population projections, evaluation of techniques of family planning, methods of analysis of defective data, calculation methods of manpower statistics and data processing.

4. It then became clear that the region was coming to grips with some of its pressing population problems. Substantially, the Conference highlighted the close interrelationships between population trends and socio-economic development efforts in the region; and underscored the need for training personnel at the national level for the collection of basic demographic data, their analysis and the utilization of the findings in the planning process.

5. The second African Population Conference was organized from 9 to 13 January 1984 by ECA in cooperation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as part of the African regional preparations for the International Conference on Population (ICP) held in Mexico City in August 1984. It was attended by representatives from 44 ECA member States as well as observers from several United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

6. That Conference reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the first Conference and hence deliberated on:

(a) The regional demographic situation and its future trends;

(b) Population and development interrelationships;

(c) Population and space;

(d) Strategies/schemes in family health, welfare and family planning;

(e) Changing role of women in the development process;

(f) Technical cooperation/financial assistance; and

(g) Progress on preparations for the International Conference on Population.

Country statements were also presented. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA).

8. The convening of the third African Population Conference is scheduled to take place at a time when considerable progress has been made within the region in the areas of data collection, analysis and utilization in the design of development plans and policies. ECA member States are increasingly preoccupied with the implementation of the KPA recommendations as an integral part of their overall development strategies.

8. The convening of the Conference will constitute an important part to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, as was done in the past and as was agreed upon at the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference, convened in New York, between 4 and 8 March 1991.

9. The Preparatory Committee to the 1994 International Population Conference has invited the regional commissions to convene, as soon as possible, regional meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions, taking into account relationships between such policies and programmes and development issues, and propose future action, as part of the contribution to the preparatory activities for the Conference. It decided also that the 1994 Conference will be preceded by the convening of six expert group meetings to be financed by the respective governments that have agreed to host the meetings. These meetings will deal respectively with:

(a) Population policies and programmes;

(b) Population, development and environment;

(c) Changes in population distribution;

(d) Role and status of women and population dynamics;

(e) Family planning, health and family well-being.

10. The Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference has suggested the following global theme: "Population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Bearing in mind the fact that the theme in 1984 in Arusha was "population and self-reliant development", the ECA Population Division is preparing suggestions for consideration by a preparatory committee to be established for the third African Population Conference.

11. The ECA Conference of Ministers may wish to note the latest information regarding the preparatory work for the African Population Conference and give the secretariat, if deemed necessary, directives and suggestions for the continuation of the preparations for this important meeting.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Theme and draft agenda

12. It is proposed to establish, with immediate effect, a preparatory committee for the African Population Conference, entrusted with the mandate, among others, to propose a theme and a draft agenda for the

Conference. Unlike the case of past conferences, it is found that more African expertise exists now among the African regional institutions, which can be mobilized for the preparatory work. The ECA Executive Secretary, indeed, entered into informal consultations with UNFPA and other African institutions with a view to formally establishing this preparatory committee.

13. It is suggested that the preparatory committee consist of one representative from each of the following institutions: UNFPA, the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), the Centre d'études et de recherche en population et développement (CERPOD), the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB). One representative from the United Nations Population Division (New York) will be invited to attend in order to ensure liaison with the preparations of the 1994 Conference. UNFPA indicated its readiness to cooperate in organizing the third African Population Conference. One major reason for suggesting such composition for the preparatory committee is to reduce costs in mobilizing expertise.

14. The first meeting of the preparatory committee will deal with the selection of the theme of the Conference, the draft agenda, the list of the papers to be written, the list of consultants to be hired and the calendar of the preparatory work. UNFPA strongly suggested to convene this meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in order to facilitate the discussions with the country hosting the Conference.

15. The second meeting could be held at ECA headquarters, on the occasion of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, in the first quarter of 1992. It will give the opportunity to the preparatory committee to review the draft papers and make suggestions on the preparations for the Conference and on its outcome, in relation to the International Conference.

B. Date and timetable

16. The Secretary General of the 1994 Conference (the UNFPA Executive Director) has advised that the outcome of the regional consultations be duly taken into consideration by and serve as inputs to the Conference, like the reports of the expert group meetings. Therefore, it is imperative that the Conference be convened in 1992, probably in the last quarter but not later, to allow the submission of its report to all concerned bodies.

17. It is proposed to convene the Conference at the Ministerial level. Depending on the agreed agenda, the Conference may have to need six working days in order to complete its business. The draft report will be discussed and adopted, in plenary, by the Ministers, after a general debate. The meeting of the Ministers will be preceded by a meeting of an expert committee of the whole. These may wish to set up two or three working groups, depending on the topics being reviewed. All debates will be public, unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

18. The date of the Conference will be fixed by the secretariat in consultation with the host country and UNFPA.

C. Documentation

1. Country documents

19. Governments will be invited, as in Arusha, to prepare statements on national experiences in population-related areas. The format and presentation of these statements will be agreed upon by the preparatory committee.

2. Working papers

20. These will serve as the main documents for consideration by the Technical Committee of the Whole and by the Ministers (in 1992). They will be prepared by the secretariat, members of the preparatory committee and by consultants.

3. Background papers

21. These will cover analytical data and other material relevant to the agenda of the Conference, but not tabled for discussion. Observers may be allowed and/or requested to submit such papers.

4. Information material, exhibits, demonstrations, etc.

22. Depending on the resources available and the participation of the media, various information materials (e.g., press kits, posters, data base demonstrations, audio and video plays) may be organized at the site of the Conference. Adequate media coverage will have to be provided and its financial support addressed.

D. Secretariat support

23. The ECA secretariat will be responsible for the organization and servicing of the Conference and the preparatory work. It will issue the invitations to member States and observers according to ECOSOC rules and procedures. It will finalize the report of the Conference, including resolutions and other instruments. It will require strengthening its capacity and securing assistance from the host country, should the Conference be held outside ECA headquarters.

E. Budget

24. The annex to this note contains a draft budget showing expected expenses to be met by the secretariat in conducting its business from this date until the finalization of the report and proceedings of the Conference.

25. Financial matters related to the International Population Conference were discussed at the Preparatory Committee. The question of funding of regional consultations was taken up by some delegations. However, the overall costing of the 1994 International Conference does not include the cost of regional consultations. Furthermore, after informal consultations with UNFPA, it appeared that this time the Fund was not able to commit itself to support the African Population Conference or to receive a project document for consideration. It was suggested that the budget for this Conference be prepared and submitted to ECOSOC for further consideration and guidance. As the preparatory work cannot, at this stage, be postponed, given the short time between now and the presumed date of the Conference, it was also suggested that some regular budget resources be given to support the travel of the members of the secretariat to service the sessions of the preparatory committee.

III. CONCLUSION

26. The Conference of Ministers may wish to consider the above proposals and give directions and forward the Conference budget to ECOSOC for its consideration and advice on funding sources.

Annex

THIRD AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE

COST PLAN

		Honorarium	Fare	DSA	Total
11.01	Consultants				
	6 consultants	30 000	9 000	5 550	44 550
	1 staff member from New York	-	2 100	800	2 900
					47 450
11.02	Administrative support personnel				
	6 interpreters (2E, 2F, 2A)	9 015	4 800	5 550	19 365
	ECA secretariat				
	Executive Secretary		3 112	1 545	4 657
	Personal Assistant to Executive Secretary		1 515	1 188	2 703
	Director, Population Division		1 515	1 188	2 703
	4 Regional Advisers		3 030	2 376	5 406
	2 Professional staff, Population Division		6 060	4 752	10 812
	Administrative Assistant		1 515	1 188	2 703
	Chief, Conference Services Section		1 515	1 188	2 703
	2 Translators		7 575	5 940	13 515
	4 French secretaries		6 060	4 752	10 812
	2 English secretaries		3 030	2 376	5 406
	2 Arabic secretaries		3 030	2 376	5 406
	1 Information Officer		1 515	1 188	2 703
	1 Embassy staff		1 515	1 188	2 703
					72 232
52.00	Report and printing costs (including transportation of documents)				25 000
53.00	Sundry (stationery)				5 000
	Inflation (10 per cent)				16 905
	GRAND TOTAL				185 952

BUDGET FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

To be held in Dakar (May 1991)

	Fare	DSA	Total
Chief, Population Division	1 516	660	2 176
Coordinator	1 516	660	2 176
			4 352
1 staff member from Conference Services Section	1 516	528	2 044
			6 396